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FLOOR DEBATE

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will die tomorrow, and it's LB 1000. It was introduced by Senator Chambers and has to do with the psychiatric facilities within the Department of Corrections. I won't be here next year, but I hope that that bill is revived and put forward and carried forward, written so as to provide a seamless entry into the Nebraska mental health system to...and available to those people who are released by the Department of Corrections. I have mentioned before that nationally 20 to 40 percent of prison populations are people with active mental illnesses. And I would go back then to say if they had a mental illness when they convict...when they were convicted of the crime that they're serving the time for, and are of diminished capacity, are they and society being well-served by being in the Department of Corrections rather than in treatment for mental illness? No one wants anyone to be in the penitentiary without cause. It's not a nice place to be. Should these people be there? Well, society has to protect itself, and society will protect itself finally, but the point is that we don't want...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: ...people in there that can be useful members of society. And 20 to 40 percent, again on national statistics, are there because of mental illness, or at least suffering from mental illness while they're there. I think that law enforcement is going to pay the price, whatever that price is to be paid. I believe that this bill is underfunded, if only for the two years covered by the A bill, two fiscal years covered by the A bill. I think you're going to have to come back here, you're going to have to feed it in...feed money into the process, however it goes. The state of Kansas is paying the price of similar actions that we're taking. They took it five or six years. Now they're trying to reconstruct a system, and that has been available to all you via newspaper clippings as well. I'm not...I'm going to not vote...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR TYSON: ...on this issue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Tyson.